



TAG & RELEASE

Volume 10, No. 2 May 2005

17TH ANNUAL SOUTH CAROLINA GOVERNOR'S CUP TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE...

April 20-23 *Edisto Marina Billfish Tournament*

Contact: Deidre Menefee
19 Forde Row
Charleston SC 29412
843-345-0369 FAX 843-406-4813

May 4-7 *Bohicket Marina Invitational Billfish Tournament*

Contact: Bryan Richardson
1880 Andell Bluff Blvd.
Johns Island SC 29455
843-768-1280 FAX 843-768-3481

May 18-21 *38th Annual Georgetown Landing Marina Tournament*

Contact: Ricky Ferdon
P.O. Box 1704
Georgetown SC 29442
843-546-1776 FAX 843-546-7832

June 1-4 *Charleston Harbor Boater's World Marine Centers Billfish Tournament*

Contact: Deidre Menefee
19 Forde Row
Charleston SC 29412
843-345-0369 FAX 843-406-4813

June 29-30 *HMY/Viking MegaDock Tournament*

July 1-2 Contact: K.C. Rennie

P.O. Box 759
Charleston SC 29402
843-577-7702 FAX 843-577-7704

For more information contact:

Tom DuPré
Office of Fisheries Management
843-953-9365 email: dupret@mrd.dnr.state.sc.us
<http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/etc/govcup/govcup.html>

A RELEASE TODAY IS A FISH TOMORROW!
Fish Responsibly!

EDISTO 2005

The first event of the 17th Annual South Carolina Governor's Cup Billfishing Series began on beautiful Edisto Island. Boats began arriving by noon on Wednesday, and there was excitement and anticipation in the air as everyone scurried to rig baits, test the tension on their reels, and talk about their luck/or lack thereof, over the past season.

The weather was beautiful with highs in the 70s and light breezes. The 3-day forecast was calling for winds to pick up and seas to increase as a strong cold front moved our way.

The tournament began with a great Captains' meeting as directors Buddy Smith and Deidre Menefee greeted everyone with a wonderful opening meal of steak and baked chicken. Even Edisto Mayor Burley Lyons was present to greet everyone and wish all the boats luck, especially the local boys.

Day one began with clear skies and light breezes. All 35 boats had decided to heed the weather forecast and go for it on day one. Unfortunately, *Recess* developed problems shortly after leaving the dock and had to be towed back.

The day was beautiful both on and off shore. As the boats slowly returned, we heard that marlin had been caught. *Game On* had called in a 107 inch and *Legal Holiday* had theirs at 106". *Aggressor* had put a satellite tag in a small blue marlin and *High Maintenance* had released a sail.

As we waited, *Aggressor* weighed in the top wahoo at 57.5 lbs, *C-Dog* took the dolphin lead with 65.7 pounds, and *Rapid Pace* weighed a 27.6 pound yellowfin tuna. As the sun set, the last two boats came in with two beautiful blue marlin.

Game On went first and the cheers went up as the weigh master called out 409.4 pounds. Pictures were taken and the excitement continued as *Legal Holiday's* fish came to the scales. To-

gether, side-by-side, it was hard to tell which one would be heavier. Everyone held their breath as the fish was hoisted to the scales and steadied. Three hundred and eighty-eight point two (388.2) was the call. Cheers of excitement and pride went up as the day ended. "Only at Edisto", exclaimed Buddy Smith.

Friday (day two) started as a carbon copy of day one. Clear skies, light breezes, and mild temperatures again. However, to the west, severe weather, wind and cooler temperatures were heading our way.

Friday's fishing was light. One white marlin was tagged by *Marlin Luhr*, and the only other significant event was a lead change from day one in the female angler category.

As dinner was beginning under the tent a strong line of thunderstorms ahead of the anticipated front raced through and put on quite a show with wind, rain and lightning.

Sometimes the weatherman is right and this was one of those times. Saturday saw gale force winds offshore, all but two boats had already gotten in their two fishing days.

The awards took place under blustery conditions. *Game On* took 1st place to continue their run from last year. *Aggressor* took top honors in the billfish conservation category. *Rapid Pace* took the lead in the Bluewater Conservation category by tagging two dolphin.

The top dolphin was an impressive 65.7 pounds and went to Earl Johnson of *C-Dog*. Top wahoo at 57.5 pounds went to Perry Tucker on *Aggressor* and the biggest yellowfin tuna at 27.6 pounds was caught on the *Rapid Pace* by Trey Sires. Top youth angler went to Brett Wood on *Hot Rod Blue* for his 22.6 pound wahoo and Lady Angler honors went to Vickie Arbogast of the *Sassy Lady* for a 37.5 wahoo.

As the wind blew and the temperatures dropped we all said goodbye to beautiful Edisto Beach. Thanks to the town of Edisto and Mayor Lyons for their hospitality and to the folks at Edisto Marina; especially Buddy Smith and Deidree Menefee for putting on a great event.



It was a hard day at work, but somebody had to do it.

Edisto Marina all dressed up.



Victor Roof and the "Game On" guys with the 1st place, 409.4 lbs., blue marlin.



Zach Counts from "C-Dog" and his 21.9 lbs. dolphin.

Fred Bergen of "Legal Holiday" and his 388.2 lbs. blue marlin along with Captain Matt and kids and Eugenie Barrow.



Earl Johnson and friend with a 65.7 lbs. "bull" caught on board "C-Dog".



Bob Faith of "Caramba" with the 2nd place 51.2 lbs. wahoo.

Frank Gibson and crew of "Sea Hawk II" with a nice 43.6 lbs. wahoo.





1st place wahoo weighing 57.5 lbs.
caught by Perry Tucker aboard
"Aggressor".



1, 2, 3, PULL!!!!



SC GOVERNOR'S CUP BILLFISHING SERIES 2004 WINNERS

Outstanding Billfish Boat

Points: 1 Blue, 409.4 lbs.,
434.4 pts

Boat: *Game On*

Owner: Victor O. Roof, Jr.

Captain: Grady Chandler

Outstanding Billfish

Conservationist

Points: 1 Blue (released)
325 pts

Boat: *Aggressor*

Owner: Shem Creek Charters

Captain: Reid Bost

Blue Water Conservation

Points: 2 Dolphin (tagged)
100 pts

Boat: *Rapid Pace*

Owner: SHSR Enterprises

Captain: Sam Schirmer

Outstanding Billfish

Weight: Blue marlin, 409.4 lbs

Boat: *Game On*

Owner: Victor O. Roof, Jr.

Angler: Victor O. Roof, Jr.

Outstanding Dolphin

Weight: 65.7 lbs

Boat: *C-Dog*

Owner: Charlie Yeomans III

Angler: Earl Johnson

Outstanding Yellowfin Tuna

Weight: 27.6 lbs

Boat: *Rapid Pace*

Owner: SHSR Enterprises

Angler: Trey Sires

Outstanding Wahoo

Weight: 57.5 lbs

Boat: *Aggressor*

Owner: Shem Creek Charters

Angler: Perry Tucker

Outstanding Youth Angler

Fish: Wahoo

Boat: *Hot Rod Blue*

Owner: Steve Wallace

Angler: Brett Wood

Outstanding Lady Angler

Fish: Wahoo

Boat: *Sassy Lady*

Owner: Robert Arborgast

Angler: Vickie Arborgast

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WALLACE F. PATE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER ANNOUNCED

Miss Whitney Williams of Mt. Pleasant, S.C. is the recipient of the 2004 Wallace Pate Scholarship. Whitney is a senior at Wando H.S. and is planning to attend Coastal Carolina University to study Marine Science. She is a member of the National Honors Society, Spanish Club, Junior Classical League and Yearbook committee. She was one of 42 applications that were considered. She will be receiving \$1,500 to help pay tuition costs. Congratulations!



SCDNR MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

In South Carolina, four species of sea turtles inhabit our coastal waters and beaches: loggerheads, leatherbacks, Kemp's ridleys and green turtles. Loggerheads, the state reptile, are the most common sea turtle nesting and hatching on coastal beaches from May to October. Leatherbacks are common in coastal waters during spring and fall as they migrate between South America and Nova Scotia. Kemp's ridleys and green turtles use coastal estuaries as feeding areas. Since 1980, SCDNR has had an active marine turtle conservation program involving research, management, monitoring and education.

Current research includes satellite telemetry of nesting female and juvenile

loggerheads. To follow these turtles visit the web site (address below). Management involves nest protection on 19 beaches with over 500 volunteers. Monitoring efforts include the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (reports dead and debilitated turtles that wash up on the beach), and coastal aerial surveys to count leatherbacks during spring migration and loggerhead nests in summer. Education includes the *Loggerheadlines* newsletter and web site (address below).

During the turtle season the public is asked to:

- 1) not disturb sea turtles or their nests
- 2) obey local lighting ordinances,
- 3) be on the lookout for turtles in the water to avoid boat strikes and
- 4) report any signs of disturbance or poaching to local authorities or call 1-800-922-5431.

During 2004, there was a successful response to the leatherback and mating loggerhead sighting programs with 20 leatherback sightings and 6 mating loggerhead sightings. This program will continue in 2005.

It is hoped that the public will enthusiastically participate by encouraging others on the beach or in ocean waters to help sea turtle conservation in our state by reporting sightings to the SCDNR. Please visit our web site (<http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/seaturtle/>) to learn more about sea turtles or to report a sighting. Your support will help sea turtle conservation in South Carolina.



Leatherback turtle



Loggerhead turtle

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The S.C. Department of Natural Resources' Law Enforcement Division reminds the public of Coast Watch, which was developed to better help citizens report violations of saltwater recreational and commercial fishing laws, as well as marine environmental laws.

The Coast Watch hotline number (1-800-922-5431) is toll-free and available 24 hours a day.